AGENDA ITEM: Telecommunications Infrastructure - Z39.50

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

Z39.50 Server Software Grants

The purpose of funding the development of Z39.50 connectivity is to establish the infrastructure necessary to create a virtual statewide database representing the holdings of California libraries. Such a virtual database is an important component of a cluster of access services envisioned in the Library of California Act.

Z39.50 is a protocol that allows for the simultaneous searching of one or more library online catalogs over the Internet, regardless of the proprietary software and hardware on each local computer system. The Board's decision to continue and expand the Z39.50 server software support and server access programs is facilitating the development of a network of virtual library catalogs that California library users can access. It is critical that this network be developed and maintained to establish a statewide database that reflects the most current holdings of California's libraries and to support sharing of resources for all Californians.

In 1998 CLSA funds were allocated for $7,500 grants to public libraries to acquire Z39.50 server software for their library automation systems. As part of its implementation efforts in 1999 the Library of California Board (LoC Board) assumed responsibility for making current and future Z39.50 server software grants and expanded the program to include all types of libraries meeting certain eligibility and technical requirements.

Update on Cycle 3 Z39.50 Server Software Grant Applications

At its June 2000 meeting the Board directed its Chief Executive Officer to continue to offer a Z39.50 server software reimbursement program for libraries who meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the Library of California and the technical requirements that promote open access to library catalogs via Z39.50. Funds for fifteen $7500 grants were allocated. Since the June Board meeting six grants have been awarded, bringing the total to fifty-five grants. Four more grants are pending at this time. $37,500 in funding remains to grant five additional grants.

The libraries having received grants represent more than 4,700,000 in population served and make available more than 8,323,000 volumes. A breakdown of grants awarded by library type and by region (Exhibit A) is included for your information.

Applicants are now required to submit copies of their Regional Library Network membership applications as part of the grant process. Once the Regional Library Networks are in place network membership will be one of the requirements of the grant.

Staff continues to work with grantees and vendors to resolve technical issues and keep data on access to the Z39.50 servers current.

Telecommunication Infrastructure Grants

In April the Board authorized the expenditure of up to $2,262,000 to support project grants for regional telecommunications infrastructure leading to the establishment of regional library catalog access, electronic interlibrary loan, and electronic patron authentication.

These grants have been awarded to the Regional Network Planning Groups and are in progress. Each region has been asked to provide the following information as part of their quarterly reporting requirements for each grant:

- Measurement and analysis of library and user participation, including estimated numbers of patrons served and collections represented in the regional project.

- Detailed information regarding hardware and software acquired to support the project.

- Actual allocated staff costs for the telecommunications project.

- Details of steps taken to ensure that the Library of California receives credit for providing regional access and resource sharing.

CLSA

In addition to the Z39.50 server grants, the LoC Board uses CLSA funds to subsidize the ongoing cost of Z39.50 access to public library catalogs ($500 per year). It also subsidizes the ongoing cost of Z39.50 Gateway Client systems that are managed by California Cooperative Library Systems ($5,000 per year).

E-Rate Program

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) provides affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries in the United States. The USAC is a not-for-profit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country. Funded at up to $2.25 billion annually, the Program provides discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections. Attached for your information (Exhibit B) is a listing of libraries in California that

have received grants from this program. The listing is by year and within year three by "wave" of grant award.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

1. Allocation of additional funds for Z39.50 server grants.

2. Development of Regional Telecommunications programs.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray